

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HIGHER EDUCATION

and

ENERGY COMMITTEE

of the

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Economic Development, Higher Education & Energy Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on Wednesday, **January 12, 2005**.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Lynne Nowick • Chairperson

Legislator Angie Carpenter • Vice•Chair

Legislator Brian Foley

Legislator Jon Cooper

Legislator Jay Schneiderman

Legislator Cameron Alden

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ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mea Knapp • Counsel to the Legislature

Joe Schroeder • Budget Review Office

Joe Muncey • Budget Review Office

Ilona Julius • Deputy Clerk of the Legislature

Ben Zwirn • County Executive's Office

Carolyn Fahey • Economic Development

George Gatta • Suffolk Community College

Charles Stein • Suffolk Community College

Jim Morgo • Commissioner Workforce Housing and Economic Development

All other interested parties

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MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Donna Catalano • Court Stenographer

(* THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:48 A.M. *)

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Good morning, everybody. I would like to start the meeting with a Pledge to the Flag led by our Legislative Counsel Mea Knapp.

SALUTATION

LEG. CARPENTER:

I would just ask everyone if they would remain standing for a moment of silence. I just the learned that one of the professors at Suffolk Community College at the Grant Campus, Professor Mark _Steinbuck_ passed away. He was just genuinely the sweetest guy and very, very enthusiastic about the college, his students. He gave so much to Suffolk Community College and our County as a whole. The funeral service is today at IJ Morris at 2:30 if anyone, you know, wishes to go. Thank you.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

LEG. CARPENTER:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Good morning everybody and welcome to the meeting of Economic Development, Higher Education and Energy. Happy New Year to everybody. I'm sure this will be a good year for all of us working together. I do not see any cards today, so that's a good thing. So I'm going to bring up some speakers, presentations. Jim, did you want to address the committee first or a little later?

MR. MORGO:

I'll respond to anything you want me to, Madam Chairwoman.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

No. I'm sorry. You also Jim Morgo, but I was just talking to Jim Spero.

MR. MORGO:

Whatever Jim has, I'm with him.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Okay. I have a question about that, because I know someone had contacted me about getting a printed copy of the Community College Budget, and I had contacted Jim, and had he had some

information that perhaps you could share with the committee.

MR. SPERO:

At the end of November we received a copy of the adopted college budget from the County Exec's Office for our review and certification by the Clerk. We checked over the numbers. Based upon what Legislature had adopted and the numbers and the positions and the changes in the positions that were adopted, they were all included in the budget. However, the copy of the College budget included the resolved clauses that were •• that were included in the recommended budget when it came over back in June, and the County Executive did not see fit to remove those clause.

As we know, the Legislature did not adopt those resolved clauses as part of the College budget, other different resolved clauses were adopted. So I have been back and forth with the County Executive's Office trying to get them to remove these resolved clauses, and then Henry could certify the budget, and we could have it reproduced. So I just want the committee to be aware that I've been sitting on this pending some resolution of getting these resolved clauses removed from the adopted budget.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

If we didn't adopt those clauses, they must be removed.

MR. SPERO:

That's right. The adopted budget should not reflect the fact that these clauses were adopted.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. We will be waiting for you to take action on that.

LEG. ALDEN:

Maybe Ben can give us an update.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Mr. Zwirn, do you want to address this?

MR. ZWIRN:

No. It's not something that I was aware of prior to this, but I will take it back and see if we can get it resolved right away.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good.

LEG. CARPENTER:

If I could. I'm hoping that it was probably just an oversight.

MR. SPERO

I don't think so.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Well, whatever. I'm one that likes to look at the glass as half full. I am going to suggest that it was perhaps an oversight, because technically it could not be adopted that way or certified that way, because it's not the way it was adopted. So it would have to be certified the way it was adopted. Doesn't that make sense?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

It absolutely makes sense.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Thank you.

LEG. ALDEN:

Don't make sense to me.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Doesn't make sense to you?

LEG. ALDEN:

Obviously it doesn't make sense to the County Executive.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. Mr. Spero, you're going to let us know.

MR. SPERO:

Yes. I will keep the committee informed.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you. George Gatta, would you like to come up and make a presentation? And Mr. Morgo, you want to speak in a little while? You're all right?

MR. MORGO:

Only if you want.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

No. Okay.

MR. GATTA:

Good morning.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Good morning.

MR. GATTA:

Thank you for allowing me to spend some time this morning to talk about a couple of projects

that I've talked to the committee about in the past, but projects that are moving forward and hopefully will be considered by the Board of Trustees at the College at their meeting next Thursday.

The first is the facility •• downtown facility that has been proposed for Sayville. As you may know, the College went through a request for proposal process soliciting proposals from various communities from entities to design, lease and deliver those facilities to the College. We did receive a proposal from the Sayville School District for the Junior High School, which is located at 30 Greene Avenue in Sayville. It's a couple of blocks from Main Street and adjacent to the train station. The school district over the past year and a half has completely renovated the facility, and is basically in a turn key condition with a couple of exceptions.

As we looked at the facility and thought that from a physical standpoint, from an instructional space standpoint it worked very well, one of the ingredients that we were looking for was what we could make work at that facility, and the need is really twofold. One is to allow us to expand our instructional space to meet growing enrollment demand, but the second is to meet local needs. When we met with the Sayville community last summer, they indicated a strong interest in us pursuing and strengthening our allied health programs, our nursing program and others •• other training programs related to the health industry.

Subsequent to that meeting, we had several discussions with Good Samaritan Hospital, and the hospital has indicated an interest, and we have, in fact, drafted a memorandum of understanding which will also be considered at the Board of Trustees meeting next Thursday, wherein the College would expand its program and train and education 30 nurses •• admit 30 students a year into the nursing program for Good Samaritan Hospital. They would •• we would enter into •• we proposed to enter into a six year contract with the hospital, and they would pay for the additional faculty and staff costs associated with that program.

When we're looking at the six year period, that would generate somewhere between 1.7, \$1.8 million in revenue to the College plus any adjustments that would be made for changes to our collective bargaining agreements with the faculty union or staff that's assigned there. And the goal is to get us into this space by the fall semester, which is very optimistic. It's aggressive, but we believe it can be done since the facility is really in a •• like I said, in a turn key condition with another exception being that we need to add some lab space for that nursing program, nursing simulation lab, anatomy and physiology lab, and that will take time to order equipment, to have it installed, to have some minor modifications made to some of the rooms within that building.

But with that being said, we look at a time line for the project, we are asking •• we would ask the Board of Trustees for the authorization to negotiate a lease at their meeting next week. We would then need time to work with the Sayville School District and with the County Attorney's Office to make sure that we have a lease that is one we can •• we can agree to and is a form that's appropriate. When we look at the Legislative calender and the Board of Trustees' calender, I think we could probably have a lease for the Board of Trustees consideration at their meeting •• at their meeting in March, which is on March 10th. But when we look at the Legislative calender, this committee meets, I believe, on March 9th, and then the full Legislature meets on March 15th.

So what I would •• what I would propose and hopefully we can accomplish is I can keep the committee informed, once the Board of Trustees authorizes us to negotiate the lease and once we have that lease in a substantially final form, I would propose to come back to the committee at your meeting on March 9th with all the other documents, brief you on that, respond to any and all questions, and then if we can, to make that happen, we would request a Certificate of Necessity from the County Executive for the meeting on March 15th so that the full Legislature could consider this project.

One other element besides the industry partnership, which is so critical for this downtown center,

the other element relates to the public support we have received from our elected officials for this facility. I have to say that Assemblywoman Fields really •• really led this effort from the get •go. She has pledged \$150,000 in state funding through the Assembly to help us with those costs associated with the lab space renovation and the new equipment. Senator Trunzo has also pledged \$100,000. And one of the resolutions that's on your calender today, which has been amended, is 2220 of '04 sponsored by Legislator Lindsay for \$100,000. It had originally been proposed to take that from the College Reserve Fund. It's been amended to take those funds right now from pay•as•you•go General County Capital Fund. And with that funding in place, we would have sufficient funds to do the improvements for the anatomy and physiology lab and the nursing simulation lab and also the furniture that we would need to outfit that facility.

So that's the •• that's the time frame under which we're attempting to operate. We really would like to have that nursing program up and operating for fall semester, and I'd be glad to answer questions on that. But if I could just jump for a second to a second downtown center proposal, which the Board of Trustees will be considering at their meeting also next week, and that's the facility that's been proposed for our culinary arts and hospitality program in downtown Riverhead. That time frame not as tight. Our goal is to have that facility operational by fall of '06. And given the amount of time and effort that we're putting right now into Sayville, we would not be asking the committee for anything other than the normal process of reviewing that and having it go through the regular Legislative cycle. But we will be prepared to make a recommendation to the board at the meeting next week, and we'll see what action the board takes at that time.

Again, as far as Riverhead goes, Senator LaValle has pledged \$250,000 in state funds, and you've already •• the Legislature already adopted a bill sponsored by Legislator Caracciolo which has already transferred \$30,000 into the college fund to help with outfitting that facility prior to its opening. So I will be back before you to explain and talk about Riverhead in more detail at a future date. The one that's really time is of essence is the Sayville project right now. So with that, I'd be glad to respond to your questions.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

You know, I think that the most important thing here is that we all know this Sayville project is very important; important to the community, important to the nursing field. And I think that everybody on the committee understands that time is of the essence. That is what you are presenting here. So with that in mind, we •• we understand what you are trying to tell us. Cameron •• Legislator Alden, I think you have something.

LEG. ALDEN:

The new rules, you are allowed to call everybody by their first names and other names if you want. Hi, George. I remember we had a meeting about maybe two years ago now, and it was about this outreach type program, just refresh my memory on, you know, like •• it's not because of lack of space that the colleges have, right, we're just reaching out into some of the communities?

MR. GATTA:

Well, it is also •• it is also a lack of space. And when we look •• when we look at our nursing program, for years, I don't know exactly how many, but for years, we have turned away many, many, many qualified applicants because we did not have space, we did not have the faculty for those students. Beyond the nursing program, when we look at our lab courses whether it's anatomy or physiology or biology or microbiology or others, again, there is such a high demand for those instructional spaces, for those lab spaces, that again, we can't, again, enroll all the students that would like to be in those classes at any given time.

One of the reasons that we experience this problem is because in a normal lecture class where you can have 25 or 30 student or sometimes up to 33, in a lab class, in many of these lab classes, especially nursing, you're limited to ten students within that lab. So you need to run many, many more sections. You need to run three sections of lab, and the labs are of much longer duration, just to handle one lecture class within the nursing program where you're handling 30 students in that program. So not only is the instructional space at a premium and

the instructional staff at a premium, it's very difficult to absorb all the costs associated with that.

If Chuck came up, Chuck Stein came up, he would tell you that, you know, nursing is a very expensive program for the college to run because of that intensive faculty to student contact. I don't know the exact number, but it's several thousand dollars. So where we can get an industry partner like Good Sam to put up funds to help us with faculty costs, and we can get elected official such as you folks at the County Legislature to help us fund some of the upfront capital costs, that makes •• that makes this program affordable for us, sustainable, and it also allows us to reach out in the community and provide other programs. Beyond the credit programs, we would also offer the continuing education professional development programs offered through our Continuing Education Division that, again, were focused on allied health; things like medical billing, which are in very high demand, medical terminology, CPR recertification. And there are a number of those training programs that we currently offer that we would be able to expand, have more room to offer there. We would also offer some of our other courses that are in very high demand. And again, getting back to your question, instructional space is at a premium on all the campuses. There are •• sometimes even at night, you can't find a classroom that's available, because of because of the high demand.

LEG. ALDEN:

Do we compete with Touro School of whatever it is, Science?

MR. GATTA:

Well, Touro School of Health Sciences ••

LEG. ALDEN:

They don't have a nursing program, do they?

MR. GATTA:

Not that I'm aware of. But their's is a four year program, our's is a two year program. Many of our students, you know, transfer not just to schools like Touro, but all the other four year institutions on the Island. With respect to nursing, though, a person can take our two year Associates Degree and then become a registered nurse and go directly into the industry. I think we are all aware of the acute and chronic shortage of nurses, not just here on Long Island, but nationally.

LEG. ALDEN:

Was there a proposal from Bay Shore?

MR. GATTA:

No. We never •• we did meet with several folks in Bay Shore. I went to the Bay Shore Chamber of Commerce, I spoke to the Bay Shore School District officials. We did tour one or two buildings, which the owners, the developers, the landlords never submitted a proposal for Bay Shore. But that was one of the communities that we thought would make, you know, very good sense for the college, but we didn't receive a proposal.

LEG. ALDEN:

And maybe, I don't know if you can answer this or not, but why the switch in the funding from the College Reserve Fund to now it's our pay•as•you•go account? Do you know?

MR. GATTA:

I don't know the answer to that, no.

LEG. ALDEN:

Maybe Angie knows.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Actually, at the last committee meeting of the year, this resolution was on, and I had spoken to the sponsor of the resolution and asked him to change that funding, because I just felt that unless the Board of Trustees passed a resolution asking us to tap into the reserve fund that it was a probably a better way for us to go to identify another revenue stream as an offset for this money, and Legislator Lindsay came up with pay•as•you•go. You know what? I'm very, very supportive of it. But that's how •• why it was changed.

LEG. ALDEN:

Through the Chair, I mean, I don't know if George or Chuck could answer this but, is there pressure on the reserve funds or on the college budget itself, because I know we put an extra, like, million or more than a million dollars into the reserve fund?

MR. GATTA:

Let me just explain the genesis of the resolution. As we were putting together the components to fund what we needed for Sayville to make this happen, Legislator Lindsay indicated that he was going to identify an offset in the '04 budget, however, I believe the line item that he was looking to use had been used as part of the •• part of the payment to the state that was made for the retirement payment last year, and those funds were not available. So he had called and said as an interim step, he would introduce a resolution taking it from the reserve fund with the understanding that in the '05 budget, he would try to replace those funds from either •• from the '05 Operating Budget. Subsequent to that, I learned that it was amended to the current form. So I can't answer the issue on whether there's pressure on the reserve fund, I do know there are guidelines that we need to adhere to pursuant to SUNY regulation and accreditation considerations that really strongly suggest a certain percentage of the college's budget be in a reserve fund or a rainy day fund. I think, you know, Chuck might be able to answer that more fully.

LEG. ALDEN:

Through the Chair, is Chuck going to give presentation today or is he just here as backup for George?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Well, certainly, if he wants to come up and join Mr. Gatta, that would be okay.

LEG. ALDEN:

With your permission, may I just, you know, ask Chuck then if there's pressure on the reserve fund? And then I wanted to digress to one other area while Chuck is up here.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Certainly.

MR. STEIN:

Good morning. The reserve fund that we have at the moment is below the standard, which is a minimum 5% of the budget. But the other thing to consider is that when the budget was adopted for '04-'05, a portion of the funding also came from the reserves from the Operating Budget, so you have to keep that in mind. In essence, there's always pressure on the reserve fund from that perspective. And I think that it's wise to maintain your reserve fund and to keep it available for meeting the standard, number one, and for potential uses as the Legislature deems appropriate. As you know, the Community College cannot use the reserve funds without the approval of this Legislature, so.

LEG. ALDEN:

I just want to make it clear, you know, like, for myself that, you know, in essence last year we did transfer the money to, I guess, augment or supplement the reserve funds, so there's approximately a million dollars, correct me if I'm wrong.

MR. STEIN:

And a portion of that used.

LEG. ALDEN:

And now we're going to use another \$100,000 transferred to the college to establish this downtown or satellite, whatever, you know, nursing program, which I think that I buy into that argument, it's a good thing. But I just wanted to make it clear for myself.

If I can just digress for one other question. It's really a question that I think you're going to have to go back and do some research and then maybe get back to us, but in the past, Suffolk Community College participated, I believe, in this Keep our Highway or Adopt a Highway Program. I think I saw some line items in there where we paid.

MR. STEIN:

I'll have to check that out.

LEG. ALDEN:

Yeah. I'd like to find out how much we spent on that type of program and any other type of, you know, like, you know, the little bit like •• I thought some of the stuff I saw in the past budget were a little far reaching.

MR. STEIN:

Adopt a Highway Program?

LEG. ALDEN:

Yeah.

MR. STEIN:

I'll check that out and get back to the committee.

LEG. ALDEN:

It might have been through LICVB. But, you know, that gives you a place to go. I saw a number of items in the budget. You know what? I'll talk to you, I'll give you a call back at the office, because I have •• at my office, I have a whole list of things that I'd like you to look at as far as expenditures from the college. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Legislator Carpenter.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Thank you. I'd like to begin by commending the College President. I know in her initial remarks has talked about reaching out to the business community and addressing some of the issues. And I think that this initiative, particularly and also the one in Riverhead and hopefully other downtowns, I'm hopeful that we'll see something brewing for Patchogue and eventually Bay Shore too.

But this particular initiative with Sayville is something the college really helped spur with the nursing task force a couple of years ago that the college worked on. And when you talked private partners, VYTRA and the LIA too were very, very supportive and participatory and helped fund the economic study on how important it was to address this issue. So to me, this is like coming full cycle. And Good Sam, Good Samaritan Hospital, has been as all of the hospitals were, but particularly Good Sam, stepped up to the plate. They made clinical slots available. They have an LPN to RN program going. And now this is kind of like the icing on the cake. And I'm just hopeful that this is a model for other things that we can be doing in the future, and I think it's important for us to know the details, so hence, thank you for coming down today, and to be as supportive as we possibly can.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Are there any other questions? Thank you.

MR. GATTA:

Thank you.

MR. STEIN:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Is there anybody else that would like to address the committee? This would be the time. We had the college. Anybody from Economic Development? No? You are okay. Energy? Okay. We can then go to the resolutions.

Tabled resolution

1878. Appointing Mary Ann Neil to the Suffolk County Community College Board of Trustees. (LINDSAY)

LEG. ALDEN:

There's no opening.

LEG. CARPENTER:

So perhaps we should table subject to call.

LEG. FOLEY:

Motion.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion to table subject to call by Legislator Foley, seconded by Legislator Carpenter. All in favor? Opposed? **Tabled subject to call.**

(VOTE:6•0•0•0)

1975. Adopting Local law No •• 2004, a Charter Law to streamline County Government by abolishing the Airport Lease Screening Committee. (COUNTY EXEC)

LEG. CARPENTER:

Has this hearing been closed or was it recessed?

MS. JULIUS:

Closed.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

It was closed. Is this being withdrawn? I heard rumblings that it was going to be withdrawn. If not, I'll make a motion to table it.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion to table by Legislator ••

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I think Mr. Zwirn ••

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion to table by Legislator Schneiderman, seconded by Legislator Foley. All in favor?
Opposed? 1975 has been **tabled. (VOTE:6•0•0•0).**

2104. Adopting Local law No. •2004, a Local law to ensure that Suffolk County Hotel/Motel tax funds benefit Suffolk's tourism. (SCHNEIDERMAN)

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

The public hearing has been closed.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. For discussion purposes ••

LEG. ALDEN:

I'll make a motion to table for discussion purposes.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Second.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I want to hear from Mr. Zwirn and potentially from Mr. Morgo on this. This bill, unlike the previous two LICVB or tourism and promotion bills, which tried to ensure that money got spent equitably across Suffolk County, this bill deals specifically with the comingling of funds and with the •• prohibiting the steering of money toward private businesses. LICVB, which is our current hotel promotion agency or tourism promotion agency, is a membership organization, and the Board of Directors is entirely comprised of members, and so the temptation there could be in such a situation where the tax funds would be used in such a way they would unduly benefit the members within the organization. And to try to prevent that in a tax that was set up to promote tourism is general and is public funds, which cannot be directed to a private individuals by law, this bill set in place.

Now, County Executive Branch, through Mr. Zwirn, has expressed some interest •• interest in working with me on this bill and a little bit more time to add some things to it. Ben, if you wanted to elaborate. Through the Chair, with your permission.

MR. ZWIRN:

Thank you. As you now, the County Executive Office was supportive of Legislator Carpenter bill, which was the first bill that was passed with respect to oversight of the LICVB. We were supportive of Legislator Caracciolo's bill as well. This bill, I think, closes the circle. What we would like to do is add some language in there that would give the Commissioner of Economic Development a little more teeth with respect to reviewing the plan and to make sure that Suffolk County gets the benefits of the Suffolk County tax dollars that go to the LICVB. And we would like to work with the sponsor. We've expressed •• the County Executive's reached out and expressed his desire to work with the sponsor on this, and perhaps we can get it done very quickly.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I would just ask for one thing on the record. That since the LICVB contract is being rewritten and reviewed, that no contract be signed until after we've worked through this and the Legislature has had an opportunity to pass this bill.

MR. ZWIRN:

I think this can be done very quickly.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Just before I go on, I just want to put on the record, I still feel that the new LICVB leadership needs a little time to get his feet wet, and I just don't want to take away too much of his power, or their power, I should say. I would like to give them an opportunity to prove them self. Certainly we're going to be tabling this and we'll see what kind of language the County Exec wants to put into this bill. But I still do have a problem with overreacting right now. Legislator Alden, you have a question.

LEG. ALDEN:

A couple.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

That's fine. Go ahead.

LEG. ALDEN:

Ben, do you see there's a shift in policy or something like, because what you said was through Economic Development, you want to make sure that, you know, we find the dollars that are generated in Suffolk County being spent in Suffolk County? Because at one time, that's kind of where I was going when I passed a resolution, it's got to be about two or three years ago now, that required the LICVB to report back to us, you know, on a biyearly or yearly basis. But there's always been a regional approach to it, are you suggesting that we might be abandoning the regional approach or just, like, modifying a little bit?

MR. ZWIRN:

It would just be a modification. And just to codify a little bit. The way that Legislator Carpenter's bill did, I mean, and we agree with Legislator Nowick, that we do want to see a regional approach, we do want to see the new leader of the LICVB get an opportunity to do what he has been hired to do. We think he can do it. We don't want to overreact either. So we're sensitive to that. And that's why •• initially, we were not supportive of Legislator Schneiderman's other two proposals that he put before the board, and we said so. This one pretty much is keeping in the same line as the other Legislative proposals that have been adopted. And we just would like to •• and most of this stuff can be done in contract, but we're codifying some of the rules the LICVB has already done so that it's just a little bit more formal. And I think that's what we would do here. I don't think we would have any language that would be offensive, because I think we are all on the same page with this one.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good. You might want to suggest, and I'll suggest to the sponsor or to you while you're working on it that since this is the final of three pieces of legislation that would actually, I think, codify our control a little bit or formalize a little bit more control over the LICVB that you just revoked the one that I passed a couple of three years ago, because these three modify it so much that there shouldn't be those •• the two reporting requirements out there then. That's just a

suggestion I'm making. And I agree with you as far as putting a little bit more control and give the audit factor to the Department of Economic Development. I think that's a good thing that we should do.

MR. ZWIRN:

I think the presentation that Long Island •• the LICVB made before the Legislature was excellent, and I think it was every reason to believe that they will do everything they said they are going to do. And I think they will be a much more effective organization as a result.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

It was quite obvious they were all willing to work with us and make the changes. And since you mentioned Economic Development, did Mr. Morgo have anything that you wanted to add to this, any opinion on this at all?

MR. MORGO:

I'm supportive of both positions.

MR. ZWIRN:

He is not getting up here.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you. Legislator Schneiderman has a question.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Not so much a question as a comment. I wanted to say too that I support the new Director of LICVB, Mr. McGowan, and I'm looking forward to working with him, and I think he is going to do a good job. And the two earlier bills that I introduced, which dealt more with management, some say micromanagement, that deal with board composition and how monies were expended, I've withdrawn those bills. This is basically just a straight good government bill that should apply really to anyone who receives taxpayer funds to make sure that those monies are not steered toward private businesses.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good idea.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

All right. Any other questions on this? Okay. We have a motion to table by Legislator Alden, seconded by Legislator •• myself. All in favor? Opposed? 2104 has been **tabled. (VOTE:6•0•0•0)**.

2220. Transferring funds from the Suffolk County Community College Reserve Fund for Suffolk Community College Downtown Center, Sayville. (LINDSAY)

LEG. FOLEY:

Motion to approve.

LEG. COOPER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion by Legislator Foley, seconded by Legislator Cooper.

LEG. ALDEN:

On the motion.

LEG. FOLEY:

On the motion, Madam chair.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

On the motion, Legislator Alden, then Legislator Foley.

LEG. ALDEN:

Shouldn't the title be changed at the very least? We're not transferring funds from the reserve.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

The bill was changed, I don't know, maybe the title wasn't changed.

MS. KNAPP:

I'm going to just double check. Does the words general capital reserve fund refer to the college or does that ••

MR. SPERO:

That refers to the General Fund, the Capital Reserve fund. It's not the college fund.

MS. KNAPP:

So does it need to be changed?

MR. SPERO:

I don't have the revised copy on the computer here. We'll double check and make sure it has the correct title.

LEG. ALDEN:

Otherwise, I mean, we can always discharge it without recommendation, because this says we're taking it out of the College Reserve Fund, which we're not at this point.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Well, let's just make sure this is the right fund. We don't want to slow this process down at all.

LEG. ALDEN:

And while we're •• no. I mean, I'm saying we discharge it. Also, on the motion.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

On the motion, Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Do we know if the County Executive is on board, because my question would be if it's the will of the Legislature to do something, the County Executive still doesn't have to expend the funds or cut the check, so to speak, over to the college? So are we spinning our wheels here or is the County Executive on board?

MR. ZWIRN:

I don't think you would be spinning your wheels on this one. I'm sure it will pain the County Executive to write a check for any kind of •• over a dollar.

LEG. ALDEN:

But this is for nurses, though. You know, this is appropriate.

MR. ZWIRN:

No. I don't think he would have •• I'm just saying in general, you know.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. Good. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. 2220, there was a motion by Legislator Foley, second by Legislator Cooper.

LEG. FOLEY:

On the motion, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

On the motion, Legislator Foley.

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you, Madam Chair. And listening to Mr. Gatta's comments earlier, it's important to note that this is just the beginning of a partnership among downtowns and our Community College. It's my hope and expectation stemming from a meeting that will be held this Friday with Patchogue Village officials that we'll be moving forward with the college with some initiatives in downtown Patchogue. The template, if you will, that has been developed for downtown Sayville, particularly with the community hospitals, that same kind of memoranda can be developed for other community hospitals that have long standing relationships with the County, particularly the County Health Department.

So it's my hope and expectation that today's resolution is just the beginning of a broad based initiative that going to help downtowns throughout the County, at the same time, help college meet its mission of educating our residents and making residents available for a variety of work force positions that our County needs. So that's why I'm happy to make the motion to approve today.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And I certainly would agree with Legislator Foley. Let's not forget, when you have all these students and all this facility in a downtown are, all of those people there buying bagels and gasoline and helping with the economic development. So it's a win•win situation, I think, for everybody.

LEG. ALDEN:

And there's a huge need for nurses. We don't need one in the Bay Shore Health Center, because that's still closed, but other places we might need nurses.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

All in favor? Opposed? 2220 has been **approved. (VOTE:6•0•0•0)**

MR. ZWIRN:

Madam Chair, may I just say one thing now that it's been approved? I just •• just the County Executive I'm sure would be mindful •• is that he would just be careful of the costs that are go to be associated with any other proposals that come in, because every downtown may want to see the college extend to their •• to their downtown facilities. And he's mindful of the overhead, the cost of adding additional staff, energy costs and everything else that is associated with that. But on the merits, the project has great merit. But just be mindful when it comes in, as downtowns apply for this type of program in the future. That's all.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I'm sure that there will be nobody more mindful than the Legislature of overhead.

LEG. FOLEY:

Madam Chair, if I may also respond.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yes. Legislator Foley.

LEG. FOLEY:

We'll be very mindful of that, but we also look upon this as an investment. It's not just private investments, but there's also public investments, and it's public investments into the resources of the County. So we think this is monies that are well utilized as part of the budget. So the monies would be used for something since it's part of the budget. So we've decided to use monies in this particular way as a means to enable County residents to put themselves in a position to be employed and to enable a County institution to meet its mission. So it's not as if this money has come out of thin air. It's money that were adopted in the budget, the Legislature approved, the County Executive approved, now we're simply appropriated the monies that we had adopted in the last fall for the '05 budget.

MR. ZWIRN:

That's why I saved my comments until after it was approved.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Good thinking.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. Thank you.

MR. SPERO:

Madam Chair, just for the record, I found the copy of the amended resolution in one of the directories on the computer, and the title is correct on the amended version.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Great. Thank you. 2288 has been withdrawn.

2310, 2311, 2312, I believe there are technical corrections on that. So if I could have a motion to discharge without recommendation.

LEG. FOLEY:

We should here from the ••

MR. ZWIRN:

For the record, there is a technical correction that will have to be made on these resolution because of the terms. Initially, Economic Development wanted to stagger the terms so they would be able to replace people on the board as the terms came up, County Charter requires them to be four years terms. But people are here, and if the committee would be so ••

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Why don't we bring the three up.

MR. ZWIRN:

•• gracious as to interview them and then proceed from there.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Robert Beuka, Lenny Stucker and Bart Pellegrino.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Good morning. We'd just like to give you an opportunity to tell us a little bit about yourselves. Start right here. State your name.

MR. PELLEGRINO:

Bart Pellegrino. I'm President of ProImage Studios as well as ProImage Media locate in Islandia. I live in West Islip. And I'm involved with movie companies in California as well as

television/video production for the Island. We have the largest facility •• not the largest. We have a large channel stage on Long Island. And we're involved with bringing television and video production to the Island as well as movies.

MR. BEUKA:

Good morning. Robert Beuka from Bronx Community College. I live in Huntington. And I do academic work on films, so I would be primarily interested in that side of film commission, bringing sort of panels and film series to the public and sort of engendering critical discourse among the community on film. And I've worked with this in my teaching and publications as well.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you.

MR. STUCKER:

Good morning. I'm Lenny Stucker. I was with the NBC network for 23 years. I'm a director, producer, creator of shows. I created a company called Talent Works in '97 that's created shows for most major networks and cable channels. I was program director in Europe in '98, Americanizing European television. I've lived in Suffolk County for 24 years, and I have a lot of contacts and knowledge to help further filming and bringing •• introducing Suffolk County to the industry.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you. I want to thank you for volunteering your time and giving to the County. It's

important to us, and we appreciate it. Legislator Alden, you have a question.

LEG. ALDEN:

I also want to thank you for stepping up to the plate, because you are not going to get paid for what you're going to do. It's going to be a lot of time. And don't take offense to this, but I have to ask you, do you see this as to promote your own business over someone else's?

MR. PELLEGRINO:

A lot of what we're going to be doing is bringing business in any way. Suffolk County can get the spin off from that because we are doing it. What we're looking to do is make the County more friendly for the whole industry.

MR. BEUKA:

In my case, I'm not sure who the competition would be, because I'm coming from it more from the academy standpoint. In fact, I would think of it as more of a cooperative endeavor, you know, in terms of getting as many people as possible interested in discussing film in particular, but also, you know, the more that we can highlight and feature local productions and get the local community involved, I think the more cooperative it would be. So from my sense, I don't really see it as a competitive situation.

LEG. FOLEY:

Good answer.

MR. STUCKER:

I think with myself there would be no conflict as I'm a creator of shows and really have no personal interest other than sharing my knowledge in context to help the County.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good answer. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you. Are there any other questions? Okay. Do I have a motion to discharge without recommendation?

2310. Approving the appointment of Robert A. Beuka, Ph.D. as a member of the Suffolk County Motion Picture/Television Film Commission. (COUNTY EXEC)

LEG. COOPER:

Motion.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion by Legislator Cooper, seconded by Legislator Carpenter on 2310. All in favor? Opposed? 2310 has been **discharged without recommendation. (VOTE:6•0•0•0).**

2311. Approving the appointment of Lenny Stucker as a member of the Suffolk County Motion Picture/Television Film Commission.

(COUNTY EXEC).

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

2311, motion by myself, seconded by Legislator Carpenter. All those in favor? Opposed? 2311 is **discharged without recommendation. (VOTE:6•0•0•0)**

LEG. FOLEY:

Madam chair, if it's a discharge without recommendation, what is the technical correction that needs to be made?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

What it is that there •• the resolution states that it's a two year term •• three year term and it should be four. So we just want to correct it.

LEG. FOLEY:

I'm make a motion to reconsider •• I prefer a motion to reconsider 2310, because I'd like to make an affirmative vote of approval as opposed to a discharge without recommendation.

LEG. ALDEN:

On the motion.

LEG. FOLEY:

And the reason I make the motion to reconsider is since it's only a technical correction, I'd rather have the full faith, if you will, of the committee on these important appointments so that two Tuesdays from now, you know, usually these motions to discharge without recommendation are red-flagged by other Legislators. So I would rather have a more affirmative vote to approve these three appointments. They have excellent backgrounds, they bring a lot to the plate, and they also bring geographic balance to the board as well. So that's why I would like to make a reconsideration.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Legislative Counsel, is that a problem? Can we do that?

LEG. ALDEN:

Madam Chair. Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

We'd be •• basically, we'd be approving something that's technically defective. So I don't know if there's a mechanism for them to change that right now where we can vote on something that would be in the proper form, but, you know, if we vote to approve these, we're approving something that is in violation of our Charter.

LEG. FOLEY:

Well, no, it's not in violation of the Charter. What it is ••

LEG. ALDEN:

The Charter states that the term has to be four years, right, and these are staggered?

LEG. FOLEY:

Through the Chair, we've heard from the County Executive's Office that by Friday they intend to make that numerical change to the bill, otherwise it's in order. And given the importance of the positions, I would say we should make an approval.

LEG. ALDEN:

And I'm going to be at the meeting to explain why we discharged without recommendation, because we approve of the gentlemen that came before us, we found that they were very worthy and it's very nice of them to give us their free time. So I think that if any other questions arise at the Legislative session, we can fully explain them.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I think that if we do this, Legislator Foley, and we just make sure on the record at the meeting that the only reason why we're doing this without recommendation is just because of a technical error. We have no problem with. If that's okay with everybody else, rather than doing ••

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Is there a way to correct it now with the County Executive Branch here where they can just simply state on the record that it's changed?

LEG. ALDEN:

They have to submit it.

MS. KNAPP:

An amended copy has to be filed with the Clerk. You know, and we do have until Friday, because it's a little bit of an unusual cycle.

LEG. FOLEY:

I'll withdraw my motion to reconsider.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

So we are now up to 2312.

**2312. Approving the appointment of Bart Pellegrino as a member of the Suffolk County Motion Picture/Television Film Commission.
(COUNTY EXEC)**

LEG. CARPENTER:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion by Legislator Carpenter, seconded by myself. All those in favor? Opposed? Motion to

discharge without recommendation has been approved. **(VOTE:6•0•0•0)**

LEG. ALDEN:

Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yes, Legislator Alden. Justice as an explanation to the three candidates, you don't really have to come to the General Session. We're going to explain that, you know, you came before us good, we saw your resume, we had a good opportunity to question you. So, you know, from my perspective and I think from the other Legislators on this committee, I don't see a problem with you being appointed, so congratulations. But you don't have to show up at the General Session if you choose not to.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And thank you very much for coming today. And you understand that this is just a technicality. Thank you.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Thank you for your willingness to serve.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Is there anybody else that would like to address the committee? Any other questions? If not, motion to close the meeting, seconded by Legislator Cooper. All those in favor? Opposed?

(* THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:35 A.M. *)

_ _ DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY